

REMARKS

Section 8 of the Office Action advises that several dependent claims would be allowable if they are rewritten in independent form. The present Amendment does this. Specifically, independent claim 1 is being cancelled and its subject matter is being transferred to objected-to claim 8; independent claim 12 is being cancelled and its subject matter is being transferred to objected-to claim 13; and the subject matter of claim 12 is also being transferred to objected-to claim 16. The present Amendment also revises claim 2 so that it now depends from claim 8. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-11 and 13-27 are now in condition for allowance.

The present Amendment also adds new claims 28-39 to further protect the invention. Claim 28 is an independent claim that is modeled after claim 12. However, it also recites that "the first device pockets are offset from the second device pockets in the length direction of the carrier tape and do not overlap." This is supported (for example) by Figure 1 of the application's drawings, where it will be seen that the pockets 2 are offset from and do not overlap the pockets 3. The rest of the new claims depend from claim 28. They correspond generally to original dependent claims 13, 15-20 and 24-27.

Section 7 of the Office Action rejects claim 12 (and several other claims) for obviousness on the basis of U.S. patent 6,357,959 to Sembonmatsu et al (hereinafter

simply " Sembonmatsu "). As was noted above, claim 12 has been cancelled, but it is appropriate to consider this rejection with respect to new independent claim 28.

It should first be noted that claim 28 is directed to an "embossed carrier tape," while the Sembonmatsu reference relates to a tray. More importantly, Figure 6 (for example) of the reference shows that Sembonmatsu's pockets 14 and 34 are not offset. Instead, they are located one above the other, and thus overlap. The reference would have provided no motivation, for an ordinarily skilled person, to produce an embossed carrier tape having the features recited in claim 28.

Since the remaining new claims depend from claim 28 and recite additional limitations to further define the invention, they are patentable along with claim 28 and need not be further discussed.

An additional claim fee of \$230 is being submitted concurrently. Should this remittance be accidentally missing or insufficient, however, any fees that may be needed may be charged to our Deposit Account number 18-0002.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENT

(09/755,058)